

By the King.

A Proclamation for the better incouragement and advancement of the Trade of the EastIndye Company.



He Kings most Excellent Maiestie, gratiously taking into His Princely consideration the great honour his Paiestie and his Royall Progenitours and this whole Kingdome have sor divers years received by the crection of the Company of Perchants of London, trading into the East Indies, being incorporated by his deare Sister the late Queene Elizabeth, and the said incorporation confirmed by his late deare sather King Iames of samous memory, whereby the native Commodities of this Kingdome are exported, and trade and commerce maintained with the remotest Chates and Countries, the Kingdome surfiched with rich and necessary commodities at cheaper prizes then in some mer times, his Paiesties revenue increased in his customes and Sub-

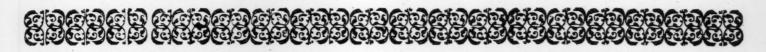
adies, the number of great and serviceable Ships much multiplied, and many of his Patellies Subjects of all trades fet to worke and imployed in manufactures wrought thereof, and a Staple of thole Indian commodities fetled in this Kingdome, and from hence to the further increase of Trade and imployment of Shipping transported in other forreigne parts: And his Paielly be= ing now informed, as well by the Governour and others imployed in principall places of trust for the faid Company, as by the Farmers of Dis Maichies great Customes, That many abuses are lately crept into the latd Trade by the practile of Officers, Servants and others imployed by the faid Company and their Confederates, in ayming at their owne profits, by driving a fecret bus Derhand Trade, whereby the faid Companies generall affaires are of late much declined and Decaved, and the adventurers therein much discouraged, and that the same is induced by the said fecret and underhand Trade aboard the Shippes both outward bound to the Galf Indies, in the Calt Indie, and homeward, laden from thence for the laid Company in the Marrow Seas and other places bpon the Confines of this Kingdome, either after the faid Ships outwards bound are discharged out of the Harbours of this Kingdome, or before the said Shippes homeward bound can come into any harbour oz other place neere any of his Paiellies Custome houses, where the particular goods freighted and laden in the laid Shippes may be entred, and the Cuflomes and Duties payed, whereby his Datelly is defrauded of his Cultomes and Sublidies, the faid Company of their freight and goods, and whereby the faid Trade is disparaged and brought to difreputation, and the Aduenturers therein discouraged: All which his Paiety conceineth to be offences tending to the dishonour of himselfe and this his Kingdome, the diminution of his Revenue, and to the overthrow of so famous a Trade and eminent a Company, and to deferue feuere Censure and exemplary punishment.

And his Maiestie not intending to suffer or passe by such abuses, being of so dangerous consequence, by hereby straightly charge and command, by an paine of incurring his highnesse displeasure, and to be punished as contemners of his Maiesties Royall Proclamation, that no particular manosthe said Company nor any of their officers or Servants, or any other, which now

are, or hereafter thall bee imployed in any of their Shippes, trading into any of the faid Catterly parts, or any other person or persons whatsoever, thall from henceforth drive any buderhand Trade, as aforefaid, either to, in, or from the Indies aforefaid, but fuch as thall be licented by the faid Company, as by their Acts and Diders in that behalfe grounded boon their Letters Dattents is allowable, and fuch goods and commodities as thall be fo imported, not to bee disposed of butil the faid Company Chall have received an accompt and given allowance therof, and butil that their Ships hall have arrived at, or in the Port of London within this Kingdome; northat any person or persons whatsoever byon the pame aforesaid, shall presume to buy, contract, bargaine or barter for, or receine or take any of the goods, wares or Derchandizes, which thall be laden aboard any of the faid Ships, to homeward bound, as aforefaid, butill fuch Ship or Ships fo homeward bound as aforefaid, in, or out of which fuch goods, wares or Merchandizes thall be fo bought, fold, delinered, contracted or bartred for, be first brought into the said Port of London, and there by the allowance of the faid Company be duely entred, and the goods thereout discharged, northall gine any afficance, helpe or encouragement for the bulading of any fuch goods at any other place, or in any other manner, nor Chall other wife offend in any thing, contrary to the true meaning of thele prefents. And his Paiellie being fo sensible of the inconveniences that attend byon the faid abuses before mentioned, and intending to have an absolute reformation thereof, doth therefore hereby fraightly charge and command all Admirals, Tice Admirals and other Officers of the Admiralty, and fuch as have Admirall Jurildiction; And all Paiozs, Postreines, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Cultomers, Comptrollers, Searchers, and all other his Officers whom it may concerne, that they and enery of them be carefull to prevent the faid offences, and to enquire of fuch as thall offend therein, and to returne their names to the Lords of his Watesties most Honourable Pring Counsell, and to give true and timely intelligence thereof to the Governour of the Company for the time being, that fuch course may be taken for the prevention of such abuses. and for the leuere punishment of all fuch, who shall presume to contemne or neglect this Dur Rove a I Commandement, either in the Court of Star-chamber, oz otherwife, as thall be thought fit. And if it Gall at any time hereafter be discovered and made to appeare, that any of his Materies Taid Officers have beene Actors in thefe abules, or any of them, or have connived at the offences of others, or have been enegligent in the execution of this his Command and Royali Pleasure; his Datelie doth hereby declare, that he will not onely extend the paine of his heavy displeasure byon them, and cause them to be punished severely, as aforesaid, but will also hold them bowerthy to ferue his Paieltie in any of those places of trust concerning his Revenue.

Giuen at Our Court at Whitehall, the fifteenth day of February, in the third yeere of Our Raigne of Great Brittaine, France, and Ireland.

God faue the King.



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